

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

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Goering in Disgrace

FROM Americans recently returned from Nazi-occupied Europe, from US and English financial journals, from US experts on wartime developments in German business, IN FACT has been able to piece together the puzzling story of what has happened to Hermann Goering.

July 14 the Moscow radio reported from Sweden, where Goering spent several years in a dope asylum before the Nazis seized power, that a split in the German High Command over the feasibility of the Russian invasion had resulted in Goering's confinement in a concentration camp. A Buenos Aires dispatch to the NY Daily News, mailed several days before, confirmed the story on the authority of German business men just arrived in Argentina. Die Zeitung, German-language paper published by German refugees in London, also carried the story on the basis of underground information from Germany.

IN FACT is assured that these rumors are true, despite German denials. But IN FACT's informants present the story of Hermann Goering's disgrace, not as a political split within the Nazi party, but as an act of retribution on the part of the great industrial magnates, who really run Germany, against an ambitious politician who wanted too much for himself.

Not generally known except by readers of financial pages is the fact that Goering, besides being a field marshal, head of the Air Force and administrator of the Four Year Plan, also maneuvered himself into an apparently impregnable position in German industry. The Nazi dictatorship, like the Hague and Pendergast political machines in the US, is founded on corruption, and German business men pay for the Nazis' smashing of liberal parties and labor unions by maintaining a widespread, all-pervasive system of graft. As a result, many Nazi officials have piled up personal fortunes. Propaganda Minister Goebbels' brother Hans was rewarded for his family relationship with positions on the board of most German insurance companies. One brother of Goering took over the Austrian film industry when Germany took over Austria; another became director of Steinberg-Naphta A G (synthetic oil) and several banks; a brother-in-law became director of the big Mercur bank. The Nazi who prospered the most spectacularly was Hermann Goering himself.

In 1937, although almost the entire output of the French iron mines in Alsace-Lorraine and Luxembourg was being shipped to Germany, there was still a severe shortage of iron ore in Germany for munitions. Low-grade deposits existed in Salzgitter, but the German steel trust preferred to use its surplus capital developing the high-grade,

"We the People," Betrayed by Press and Politicians, Soaked Billions for Defense While Wealth Escapes

RARELY in the history of America has there been such a clear division between enemies and friends of the American people as on the question of the three billion dollar tax bill.

The enemies of the American people, the corporations, many government officials, many Congressmen, the big newspapers, have been unanimously on one side of the question. The friends of the American people, one or two big papers, every small independent labor-liberal-progressive publication, a few members of Congress, have been on the other side.

The forces which make public opinion, chiefly the commercial newspapers and magazines, which reach 50,000,000 people, were for a tax bill to soak the poor, to make the little man pay the burden, even if it lowers the standard of living and robs the majority of necessities of life.

The forces which favor the general welfare, chiefly the free independent publications, which possibly reach 5,000,000 Americans, have so far been unable to arouse the public to use its pressure on Congress to overcome the pressure of Big Business, the bar associations, the newspaper publishers' association which the TNEC's celebrated Monograph 26 declared own and rule this country for their own benefit in power and profit, through the most powerful lobby in Washington.

Poor Soaked; War Profiteering Continues

If the "soak the poor" bill passes the Senate in the same form it passed the House, "we the people," the wage and salary earners, the little business men, the vast majority which never sees \$2500 a year, are going to pay for the defense program.

War profiteering, however, despite predictions, has not been outlawed.

The standard of living has been hard hit. There is every indication that while profits mount for the corporations, the daily increased cost of living, the failure of wages to keep pace with prices, will make things worse for the majority.

"The new tax bill," says Bread & Butter (Aug 7) "is so bad that it's hard to figure out where to start criticizing it. . . . The bill's provision for an excess profits tax is a joke; there is no undivided profits tax; the vast bulk of gov't securities is still tax exempt; the gift and inheritance taxes are still as full of holes as a fishnet; and income tax increases on large incomes are insignificant.

"A billion-dollar increase in excise (commodity) taxes and skyrocketing rates on low incomes complete the sorry picture.

"Warning consumers of what to expect, Committee Chairman Doughton added insult to injury by promising in next year's tax measure not only a general sales tax but also an income tax for everyone with any income." (Bread & Butter is the weekly newsletter published by Consumers Union, 17 Union Square, NYC, \$1 yearly. We are glad to publicize this organization because the corrupt press refuses to print even paid ads informing America that there exists an honest organization protecting public interests against the propaganda of the corporations.)

Worse to Come, Wall Street Admits

Wall Street hears that next year's tax bill will be even worse, so far as the majority is concerned. Says the Dow, Jones & Co financial newsletter (Trends, July 31): "The year 1942 . . . will see a measure that will carry crippling provisions. A general sales tax is indeed a good possibility at that time. Lower exemptions for income tax purposes is also a safe bet. More and heavier excises—some of them extremely heavy—is an alternative for a general sales tax, and will be the only way to avoid one."

Every one of these points: sales tax, broadened income tax base, excise tax—are the taxes which burden the little man, resulting in a lower standard of living. The Wall Street Journal has admitted that "social gains" cannot be maintained, that defense cannot be paid for "unless every person in the US cuts radically his standard of living and puts away, not only necessities, but many of the things he now regards as necessities." Barron's, financial weekly, said "the defense

program will mean a curtailment of civilian consumption. There can be no sure protection of a subsistence minimum. . . ."

America, being the wealthiest country in the world, could have passed a tax bill guaranteeing both guns and butter; it could have maintained the standard of living, raised that of the one-third of a nation which hasn't enough to eat, taxed corporations and the wealthy.

Two things were necessary: public opinion, created by a press devoted to the general welfare rather than the special interests; and a Congress which obeyed public opinion rather than the lobby of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The Rich Escape Tax Burden

By "broadening the base of taxation," or by "making taxation more democratic" as editorials in the newspapers put it—and this means in plain English including those least capable of paying taxes—the new tax bill places the burden on the little man, permits the rich to escape.

If Congress met in Washington for the purpose of furthering the general welfare of the American people, as the Constitution of the United States provides, Congress would have had no difficulty in writing a law taxing the small minority which has always succeeded in shifting the tax burden on the little business man, the wage earner, and the poor.

Senator O'Mahoney's Temporary National Economic Committee this April provided Congress with the necessary information on who owns America, who owns its natural resources, its money in the banks, its stocks and bonds, its unearned incomes.

Here are some startling facts from the TNEC report as made by Dr Dewey Anderson, executive sec'y:

"Various efforts to determine who actually owns the US and reaps the major benefits of such ownership have been made by individual students and can be summarized as follows:

"The top 2.7% of all families, 800,000 of them, get incomes of \$5,000 or more. In 1935-36 they received 20.9% of all income.

"The upper 10% of families accounted for more than 85% of all savings.

"In May 1936, 400,000 families owned 72% of the demand deposits [i e, cash money in the banks] of the country.

"Families with incomes of \$5,000 or more received 10.1% of all compensation paid employees in 1929. They collected 19% of all rents. They obtained 24.7% of all entrepreneurial incomes [i e, income which is the result of taking risks, managing enterprises, exploiting others]. They received 40.7% of all interest paid. They get 48.1% of all property income. They receive 71.2% of all dividends.

Less Than 3% Dominate America

"Part of their number receive the major benefits of insurance investments. Less than 13% of the matured policies received 85% of the money distributed by life insurance companies in payment of claims.

"The employed members of these families are: financiers, industrial and business managers, business owners, high grade agents and salesmen, and professional persons. The unemployed heads of such families are living on inheritances and investments.

"Less than 3% of the families of the nation have such a large proportion of both wealth and income as to dominate American economic life. In the business community they are in control, despite the relatively large number of small proprietors who try to succeed as owner-operators.

"In manufacturing and distributive industries they are in an even more dominant position and in finance their control is complete. Even in agriculture the concentration has reached a stage where farms of 1000 or more acres, while only 1.3% of all farms, comprise 29.4% of all farm land. Farms of 500 to 1000 acres add another 11% to the total acreage in large farms.

"It is true that the ranks of wealthy families are invaded by newcomers from time to time, yet within these few families, cut of all proportion to their numbers, is a further concentration due to hereditary fortunes which have been added to and passed on from generation to generation.

"A considerable part of the wealth of the nation is now lodged in a few families which so skillfully handle their income and inheritance taxation that they continue to assume an ever larger place as 'owners' in each successive generation."

The American Newspapers Suppressed the Facts

On every occasion that the O'Mahoney Monopoly Investigation issued statements such as the foregoing, the standard commercial, venal and corrupt American press suppressed or buried them, so that the public was kept in the dark. Liberal, independent weeklies published facts; only 3 standard papers, Washington Post, NY's PM and St Louis Post Dispatch refused to suppress, according to IN FACT readers' researches.

The Federated Press, which serves liberal-labor press, did send out every news story on Monopoly Investigation, just as it sent out all stories of Nye

high-profit Swedish ores. According to a Nazi historian, the Goering Works were established because "private industry did not believe it could assume the risk of an increased output of the Salzgitter and Dogger ores." Goering took over the deposits by decree July 23, 1937, with a \$2,000,000 loan from the Reichsbank, and within a few months also acquired Upper Silesian coal fields, Bavarian lime deposits, gravel pits, quarries and lignite mines. Compared to the Ruhr industrialists, of course, he was still a small businessman.

Then Germany, armed and encouraged by British and French appeasers, began to expand. In Austria Goering took over Louis Rothschild's holdings in the great automobile company Steyr-Daimler-Puch A G, a railroad car factory and the Danube steamship co, and he squeezed the Fritz Thyssen syndicate out of control of the richest steel co in Central Europe, Alpine Montangesellschaft, owners of the Styrian iron ore which is sometimes described as the main reason for Germany's invasion of Austria. (Source of most of these facts on the Goering Works: Social Research, Feb 1941.) In Czecho-Slovakia Goering took over half the lignite mines, the Vitkovice iron and steel factories and the enormous Skoda munitions works. He took over the Reshitza iron and steel works in Rumania; the Dunderland iron deposits in Norway; similar rich concerns in other occupied countries till at the time of the invasion of Russia the Goering Works had a total capital of \$800,000,000 and employed 600,000 workers. After a reorganization a few months ago the Goering Works were recognized as the largest armaments concern in the world.

The Goering Works' great expansion, according to IN FACT's sources, was accomplished at the expense of creating widespread resentment among the old-line German businessmen who had sunk millions of marks in putting Hitler into power and now found themselves cheated out of the choicest fruits of Hitler's military victories. Many of the subsidiaries in the Goering Works were wholly or partially owned by other German trusts, but the top holding company was 100% owned by Hermann Goering. Whether or not it is true that Goering has large sums deposited in South American banks in anticipation of the collapse of the Nazi regime, the story is widely believed in Germany. The Thyssen group, which had been bitter against Goering ever since he beat them to Alpine Montangesellschaft, was finally maneuvered out of the Steel Trust altogether, and their interests were taken over by Goering. With each new acquisition, Goering acquired new enemies, who watched and waited for his foot to slip. This, say IN FACT's informants, took place when he opposed the Russian invasion, apparently on the strength of later reports about the Red Air Force which contradicted Goering's friend Col Lindbergh.

US experts expect control of the Goering Works in the future to be shared by Krupp, who was conspicuously decorated by Hitler several months ago, and the Mannesmann Tube concern, which is one of the moving influences behind Franco in Spain.

Documentation

IN almost every issue IN FACT gives its readers new evidence of how the public is fooled by its newspapers. A gov't

document may make the statement that the publishers' association is merely the hired help of the National Ass'n of Manufacturers, that the press is prostituted, venal and corrupt. But as new situations arise, new documentation on this general statement must be provided.

Any reader can do this: take a hundred big city newspapers, 50 big magazines dealing with public affairs, and 50 small publications, the labor-liberal-progressive press. He will find that it is no coincidence that every paper and magazine connected with big money is for the tax bill soaking the poor (see wide column), and every publication dedicated to public enlightenment is opposed to it.

In many big cities there is only one morning paper, or all papers are owned by the same corporation. In Pittsburgh the three papers are owned by Hearst, Howard and Block, the three leading tax-dodgers of journalism, all three of whom write editorials upholding a tax program soaking the little man and letting the rich escape.

When a newspaper keeps its news columns straight, it has a hundred other tricks for fooling the public. Thus the nation's most powerful paper, the NY Times, which may report the tax news fairly on Page 1, uses not only editorials but other means of influencing public opinion. It presents letters such as the following: "BROADER TAX BASE SUGGESTED. Defense Workers Regarded as Escaping Burden." And 3-col wide: "SALES LEVY RECOMMENDED TO CURB CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION." In its editorials it says "BROADEN THE TAX BASE Now." The Times also chooses its news stories. When it plays up for a full column the National City Bank statement, under the heading "SEES NATION BEHIND STRONG TAX POLICY," it is choosing a pro-bank viewpoint on taxation.

The House of Morgan pays Reuben Maury (chief editorial writer NYDNews) to write its editorials in its weekly, Colliers. In "A Sales Tax for Defense" this paid writer advocates what Morgan and the manufacturers want, a tax which hits the poor, saves the wealthy. Practically all the newspapers and magazines which are linked to Big Business through advertising money upheld the Big Business viewpoint on the tax question.

Liberal Press Tells Truth

ON the other hand many small publications tried to help the American public by telling the truth. Here is what some non-commercial papers said:

"The tax measure . . . does not provide for sufficient taxation of excess profits and allows many loopholes for war profiteers. . . . Excessive burden is placed on the poor through the lowered exemptions from income tax and through increased excise taxes on consumers goods."—CIO News.

"The present Excess Profits Tax Act

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Munitions Investigation and LaFollette Civil Liberties Investigation, which majority of newspapers suppressed, slashed, or buried. Summarizing the Anderson report on taxation, FP found that 2.7% or 800,000 wealthy families do not pay their share of taxation.

In 1938 Federal, State and local gov'ts collected \$14,811,000,000 in taxes, but only about a quarter of that was based on ability to pay. The three-quarters came from taxes which rich and poor alike paid equally, such as tobacco, gasoline, beer taxes and sales taxes. The US Gov't collected 40.7% of this amount. Corporate taxes amounted to 24% of US Gov't income, and individual income taxes amounted to 22%. "The other 54% of the Federal income came from taxes on consumers, a nickel from the relief client for every nickel from the banker." Continues FP's Washington correspondent, Henry Zon:

"The lowest income group, constituting 17% of all income units, has an average annual income of \$346. It gives up in taxes over \$76 or 22%. The highest income group constituting three-tenths of one percent (.3%) of all income units, has an average income of \$47,600 a year. It paid \$17,992 or 37.8% of its income in taxes. In other words, the \$346 a year family has \$76 less with which to buy bread and milk and clothes, while the \$47,600 family still has \$29,708 with which to meet its needs."

The TNEC study puts it this way: "The higher income classes possess great income reserves above the needs and luxuries of life or taxes imposed.

"In comparison with all other income groups in a democracy committed to the concept of placing the tax burden on those able to pay it, these wealthy people are highly favored."

TNEC shows clearly this outstanding fact: the people least able to bear the burden carry the heaviest part of it. They offer the least resistance to taxation. They are largely unorganized, deceived by the press which another TNEC report states plainly is merely the agent of the Big Business minority, an instrument in ruling America for the profit and power of a handful.

Newspaper Publishers Joined Tax Dodgers

In news-reporting and editorializing in the big city newspapers on the present tax bill, new evidence is given that the press is an instrument of Big Business, as Monograph 26 charged.

In the great 1937 tax dodging scandal (which incidentally resulted in many democratic newspapers switching to Willkie in 1940) six of America's millionaire newspaper publishers were among the millionaires exposed by the government as establishing personal holding companies to avoid paying taxes. Here are some ruling families of America and the holding companies they established:

Thomas W Lamont, partner of J P Morgan, for many years director of Colliers and other magazines: Beech Corp.

Pierre D duPont, F V duPont, Pauline duPont, Mrs W duPont Ross, H E duPont, R C duPont: Regent Corp, Delaware Realty & Investment Corp, Nemours, Renappi, etc.

Roy W Howard, publisher of NY World-Telegram, Cleveland Press, Pittsburgh Press, and other papers, W W Hawkins, T L Sidlo and Robert P Scripps, all of Scripps-Howard papers: Howard Co, Sidlo Corp, Hawkins Co and Scripps Co.

The Mellon Family, Andrew, Robert B, Ailsa Mellon Bruce: the Coalesced Co, Adason Tobacco, Penn Tobacco Corp.

Paul Block, publisher of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Toledo Blade, and Toledo Times: Consolidated Publishers.

The Fisher Family, Fred, OD, DR, OW: Senior Investment, Fisher Investment Co.

Alfred P Sloan Jr of General Motors: Newcastle, Marquette, Jaxon Corp.

William Dewart, publisher NY Sun.

Wm S Paley, president, Columbia Broadcasting Co.

And here are the US Treasury Dep't figures on newspaper publishers' net income, the amount of tax paid, and the amount they should have paid if they had not set up holding corporations:

	Net income	due	paid
Paul Block	\$1,100,278	\$585,000	Nothing
Roy W Howard	501,904	79,993	Nothing
Robert P Scripps	173,599	59,840	Nothing
T L Sidlo	72,987	7,988	Nothing
Wm T Dewart	198,842	8,745	Nothing
W W Hawkins	154,453	36,000	\$251.24

When the Treasury gave out this sensational story the newspapers could not suppress it entirely, so they did their best to bury it and to hide the fact that publishers were leading offenders. For example, the World-Telegram, chief spokesman for the Howard-Hawkins-Scripps-Sidlo owners, started its story on the bottom half of Page 1 with a heading "Mellon Named In Tax Inquiry." Dewart's Sun's 1-col headline was "Holding Firms Named at Tax Hearing." In the opening sentences both papers named Mellon and Sloan, both suppressed all reference to publishers. The World-Telegram omitted DuPont also. On page 22 the Howard paper listed the Scripps-Howard tax evaders but did not connect their names with Scripps-Howard newspapers, although it did link Dewart to the Sun. The Sun said the Scripps' had "papers in a number of cities" and omitted the fact that Dewart was Sun publisher.

And here is a list of tax-dodging previous to the 1937 disclosures:

Wm Randolph Hearst, total \$5,111,708; 1934-1935.

Albert D Lasker, president Lord & Thomas, one of America's largest advertising agencies, \$197,053; 1934-36.

Charles F Kettering, vice-pres, General Motors, \$610,733; 1934-36.

Fred'k H Prince, Armour & Co, \$1,022,812; 1934-36.

Jacob Ruppert, beer and baseball, \$102,470; 1935-36.

Edw A Cudahy Jr, packer, escaped all taxation on \$13,000,000 corporation, in 1935.

Hearst, Howard, Other Publishers Fight Tax

"Only the rich can afford to own newspapers," writes Sec'y of Interior Ickes, who, with the aid of many newspaper men, has compiled statistics on the corporate press. Here are some valuations:

Minneapolis Evening Star.....\$ 900,000 (Selling price, 1935)

Memphis Commercial Appeal.... 3,000,000 (ditto)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette..... 5,500,000 (Block bought half, 1937)

Dallas News (estimated)..... 2,000,000

Kansas City Star.....11,000,000

Chicago Daily News.....13,000,000 (sold for)

Philadelphia Inquirer15,000,000 (Paid by M L Annenberg)

The Chicago Tribune, the New York Daily News, the New York Times have been estimated at \$50,000,000 each. In good years (such as 1929) the Times grossed \$25,000,000 a year.

"Evidently," concludes Ickes, coming to the same conclusion as William Allen White, "newspapers, even little ones, are big business and the people who own them are therefore dominated by a Big Business psychology."

Salaries, too, are indicative and relative to the situation. Tops has been W R Hearst who nowadays draws \$100,000. He drew \$400,000 in 1937 and \$500,000 a year for many previous years.

Joseph Pulitzer, St Louis Post-Dispatch, and about the only publisher in America taking advertising who does not suppress the news for business and financial reasons, drew \$180,461 in 1940; Thomas H Beck of Crowell (Colliers, etc; a J P Morgan outfit) \$75,240; R E Berlin, \$115,655 from Hearst; Rodney Boone, \$103,226 from Hearst; John S McCarrens, \$153,465, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Victor H Hanson, \$86,766, Birmingham News; Wm B Warner, \$97,678, McCalls; Kenneth W Payne, \$120,000, Readers Digest; W A Curley, \$80,416, Hearst.

The News Syndicate, owned by Chi Trib and NYDNews, paid five officials \$114,597 each.

Harry Chandler of Los Angeles Times had an income of \$700,000 in 1937, \$1,200,000 in 1929. The Times favors the democratic way of letting its readers rather than its owner pay the taxes.

Shortly after the New Deal came into power, Mr Hearst launched the slogan "Don't Soak the Rich," and continued it through the present tax bill debate. Mr Hearst's 18 newspapers, however, never use the phrase, "soak the poor."

The most arrogant attack on the present tax bill came from the 18 papers owned by Howard, Hawkins, and others who led the tax-evasion list. Worst polishers of brass checks are the majority of newspaper cartoonists who are instructed by owners what pictures to draw for the purpose of creating public opinion, prejudices, hysteria, hatred. Thus in Aug 5 World-Telegram one of Howard's shoepolishers draws a cartoon showing an auto hitting on one cylinder marked "The one-sixth who pay income tax." The little man representing the public says to Congress, the chauffeur, "Why not hook up some of those other cylinders?" which are labeled "The 5/6ths who don't pay income tax." Mr Howard, millionaire, who that week had suppressed all news of the strike negotiations at Gimbel Bros because he lives on advertising from Gimbels and similar firms, would like the little men, the small merchants and the poor, rather than the one-sixth which has the wealth of the country, to pay for running the country and defending it.

... is one of the most shameless pieces of lobby-written legislation passed in many years. . . . The major fault of the present act is that it literally writes profiteering into law."—New Republic.

"The new tax program . . . will hurt living standards almost as much as the inflationary rise in prices. . . . The new taxes do not strike at defense contract profiteering and the speculative profits of price inflation. They are not based on the principle declared by the President: 'It is our duty to see that the (tax) burden is equitably distributed according to ability to pay so that a few do not gain from the sacrifices of the many.'"—Consumers Union Reports.

"Corporations win battle for light tax on profits. . . . Tax Bill . . . lays its heaviest burdens on the 'Little Fellow.'"—Labor, organ of Railroad Brotherhoods.

"The tax program as completed by the House Ways and Means Com fully justifies the pessimistic predictions made in The Nation. . . . The bulk of the excise taxes will bear hardest on low income groups."—The Nation.

"In 1776 the cry 'taxation without representation' signified deep economic and political unrest. Today the problem is taxation without income. . . . Ninety per cent of the families in the US receive only about half the national income, do not save, and bear the large share of the tax burden; while 10% receive almost the whole of the other half of the national income, do nearly all the saving, and do not pay taxes in proportion to their ability to pay. The present tax bills offer no change in this policy. These taxes plus the rising cost of living make the lot of 90% of our population worse."—USWeek.

"Taxes to soak the poor demanded by National Manufacturers group. The most coldblooded proposal yet offered for easing taxes on the rich and socking the poor was submitted . . . by the National Association of Manufacturers."—PM

"SOAK THE RICH, NOT THE POOR, SAYS MURRAY."—headline, United Automobile Worker.

"Just as labor wins, after months of struggle, wage increases that barely restore—let alone increase—labor's purchasing power, new attacks on that purchasing power are made. New proposals for double and triple taxes on average workingmen's incomes are offered by the Administration."—UE News, CIO electrical workers organ.

"The utter inadequacy of the Treasury's excess profits tax proposal is revealed in the meager yield expected. . . . No relief in the drastic excise taxes on consumers is proposed—no relief from the steep income taxes on the low-income groups is proposed."—Open letter from Martin Popper, National Lawyers Guild.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

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